

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Applicant(s) : Jean-Paul MARDON et al.  
Serial No. : To Be Assigned  
Filed : Herewith  
For : ALLOY AND TUBE FOR NUCLEAR FUEL ASSEMBLY AND  
METHOD FOR MAKING SAME  
Art Unit : To Be Assigned  
Examiner : To Be Assigned

Mail Stop Patent Application  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

SIR:

Please amend without prejudice the above-identified application before examination, as set forth below.

**In the Specification:**

Page 1, line 2, after the title, please insert the following paragraph:

-- **CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS**

This application is a divisional of prior application Serial No. 09/647,339 filed on November 27, 2000 which corresponds to PCT Application No. PCT/FR99/00737 filed on March 30, 1999 which claims priority to French Patent Application No. 9803970 filed on March 31, 1998.